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# UPTON NURSERY CO.

Detroit, Michigan

KEEP THIS CATALOG! It is not issued annually. The natural color photographs, authentic descriptions, and useful information it contains make it worth keeping.

*Our price list is a separate publication.*





"Lilacs,  
 False blue,  
 White,  
 Purple,  
 Colour of  
 lilac . . .  
 You are  
 everywhere . . .

—  
 A reticent  
 flower,  
 A curiously  
 clear-cut,  
 candid  
 flower,  
 Standing  
 beside clean  
 doorways,  
 Friendly to  
 a house-cat  
 and a pair  
 of spectacles,  
 Making poetry  
 out of a  
 bit of  
 moonlight  
 And a  
 hundred  
 or two  
 sharp  
 blossoms."

From "Lilacs" by Amy Lowell, appearing  
 in *What's O'Clock*, and used by permis-  
 sion of Houghton Mifflin Company,  
 publishers.

This catalog tells you about lilacs  
 in general and our lilacs in particular.  
 If it fails to solve all of your lilac problems,  
 however, don't hesitate to write us. All  
 letters receive courteous attention.

All of our lilacs are guaranteed true  
 to name. Our propagating stock comes  
 from the most authentic sources, many  
 plants having been received direct from  
 their originators. All have been checked for  
 authenticity with meticulous care. Every  
 precaution is taken to avoid any mix-up of  
 varieties when taking material for propaga-  
 tion and when planting out in the field.

We constantly strive to grow only  
 the best varieties, offering lilac lovers the  
 cream of the world's originations. We are  
 constantly acquiring new varieties for ob-  
 servation, in order to continue to have the  
 latest and best in lilacs.

All of our lilacs are grown on their  
 own roots. None are budded or grafted.  
 As a result our plants look better, grow  
 better, and stand up better under adverse  
 conditions. *Please note the illustration on  
 the back cover of this catalog.*

Growing lilacs entirely on their  
 own roots without resorting to bud-  
 ding or grafting is a slow, painstaking  
 process, but it is the only way to produce  
 top quality stock. Because there are varie-  
 ties very difficult to propagate in this way,  
 some kinds are often in short supply.

When a variety is sold out, we start  
 a Waiting List. If you want your name on  
 the list for a given variety, just let us know.  
 No cash deposit is required. We notify you  
 when stock is available. You are then free  
 to order if you wish, but *you are not obli-  
 gated* to do so.



**We are growing a number of varieties not included in this catalog.** Most of these have been added to our collection only recently and are not yet available in sufficient quantity to warrant a catalog listing. If you would like any lilacs not mentioned, write us. We may be able to quote you.

**Our price list is a separate publication,** customarily issued twice annually. Our current list is attached to this catalog.

**Terms are cash with order.** Order as early as possible. Some varieties sell out very quickly. We refund your money on any lilac that we cannot supply. *We never substitute one variety for another, unless the customer gives us his express permission to do so.*

**We customarily ship Express, shipping charges collect.** We do not recommend shipment in any other manner. If you do not want your order sent by Express, please make advance arrangements with us. In all cases the customer pays shipping charges. Bear in mind that because of size limitations on packages only small orders may be sent Parcel Post. *When ordering, be sure to tell us your nearest Express office.*

**All plants shipped are packed with greatest care.** Roots are packed in damp sphagnum moss (the best moisture-retaining material available) and wrapped in waterproof paper. Tops are reinforced with stout sticks; branches carefully tied, and buds protected with excelsior. The whole package is then sewed in burlap. Every season customers write us about the excellent condition in which our stock reached them.

**Planting and cultural directions are included in every shipment.** Look for them when you open your package.

**Our lilacs are easy to grow,** but they must have a sunny location with good drainage. They should never be planted close to large trees. They prefer a slightly alkaline soil; working in agricultural lime in suitable amounts will correct acid soil conditions.

**Lilacs need comparatively little care.** Stable manure or commercial fertilizers may be applied in early spring, or immediately after the bushes have bloomed. One tablespoonful of complete fertilizer (4-12-4 or 4-16-4) worked into the soil around one 2-3' plant is about the right proportion. Spraying with liquid lime sulphur or miscible oil while plants are dormant and temperature above freezing will control scale. Lilacs should not be allowed to sucker too freely but a new stem should be allowed to grow occasionally to take care of possible losses of old wood. Ground around lilacs should be kept well cultivated.



# FRENCH HYBRIDS

The big, showy, sweet-scented blooms of the French Hybrids, and the wide variations they display in color and form, have made them the most popular and best known of all modern lilacs. Not all are French, some having originated in the United States, others in Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands. None are true hybrids, since all have been derived from just one lilac species, the Common Lilac, *Syringa vulgaris*. In 1870 Victor Lemoine, world renowned hybridizer of Nancy, France, began crossing the few available single forms of *S. vulgaris* with the only double lilac of the time, *S. vulgaris* Azurea Plena. Today approximately one-third of the more than five hundred recognized French Hybrids, and about three-quarters of the most outstanding of them, are originations of the firm of V. Lemoine & Son.

**ADELAIDE DUNBAR** (Dunbar 1917) Double. One of the darkest lilacs in cultivation. Buds deep maroon; blossoms violet-red; clusters long, open. Young leaves tinged with dark red. An open-growing, well shaped bush. (Illus. p. 9.)

**ALPHONSE LAVALLEE** (Lemoine 1885) Double. Long, well-filled panicles of feathery flowers resembling tiny stars. Rich lavender, shading to violet. A broad, symmetrical, very sturdy shrub. A profuse and dependable bloomer.

**AUDREY**—See Prestonia Hybrids, p. 14.

**BELLE DE NANCY** (Lemoine 1891) Double. Florets bright lilac-rose, with conspicuous white centers. Long, compact trusses. Low-growing, bushy, hardy.

**BLEUATRE** (Baltet before 1897) Single. Flowers noticeably bluish in full bloom; contrasting rose colored buds. Tall, slender, vigorous, attractive.

**BUFFON**—See Giraldi Hybrids, p. 13.

**CAPITAINE PERRAULT** (Lemoine 1925) Double. Big, imposing panicles composed of unusually large florets of rich rosy mauve. Very impressive. Late.

**CATINAT**—See Giraldi Hybrids, p. 13.

**CHARLES JOLY** (Lemoine 1896) Double. Well filled, cylindrical spikes of deep crimson-violet flowers, held erect. Very striking; stands out clearly from a distance. A slender, upright, dependable grower. (Illus. p. 5.)

**CHARLES SARGENT** (Lemoine 1905) Double. Extremely showy, flaunting a mass of big, billowy clusters of mauve-violet blossoms with steel blue overtones. Strong and sturdy. Keeps unusually well as a cut flower.

*All of our lilacs are grown on their own roots*



Top: The true *S. persica*  
Charles Joly

Colbert



*Natural Color Photograph*

Leon Gambetta

Jeanne d'Arc

Perle von Stuttgart

**CHARLES X** (Before 1830) Single. Buds dark red; flowers reddish violet.  
An old favorite still held in high esteem. Makes a big, bushy shrub.

(Many different forms have been sold under the name Charles X. Our propagating stock was received from the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University. Their lilac collection is considered the most authentic in the United States.)

*All of our lilacs are grown on their own roots*



**CLAUDE BERNARD**—See Giraldis Hybrids, p. 13.

**COLBERT** (Lemoine 1899) Double. Compact trusses with florets displaying tones ranging from clear pink to violet to reddish purple with occasional touches of white. A little known but very fine variety. (Illus. p. 5.)

**CONDORCET** (Lemoine 1888) Double. A stately, vigorous bush of exceptional symmetry; unsurpassed as a specimen. Very striking, with its profusion of upright, dense spikes of reddish lavender flowers and its unusually rich dark green foliage. Buds are a deep rose color.

**CONGO** (Lemoine 1896) Single. Slender, graceful branches droop with the weight of the great panicles of vivid red-purple bloom. Thrifty and floriferous. One of the most popular French Hybrids in cultivation (Illus. p. 9.)

**CORAL**—See Prestonia Hybrids, p. 14.

**DECAISNE** (Lemoine 1910) Single. Florets of soft azure-blue borne in loose, airy clusters. A dainty but sturdy shrub; among the best of the blues.

**DIDEROT** (Lemoine 1915) Single. Long, imposing trusses of very large, deep claret-purple blossoms, distinguished by petals with incurved margins.

**EDITH CAVELL** (Lemoine 1916) Double. Magnificent spikes of chaste, milk-white flowers; buds tinged yellow. A real garden aristocrat; always in great demand. (Illus. p. 7.)

**ELLEN WILLMOTT** (Lemoine 1903) Double. Bears an abundance of big, dazzling snow-white blossoms. Strikingly beautiful; one of the best loved whites.

**ETNA** (Lemoine 1927) Single. Immense clusters, well filled with exquisitely formed, dark claret-purple flowers. Among the most distinguished of Lemoine's later introductions. (Illus. p. 7.)

**FLOREAL**—See Nanceiana Hybrids, p. 15.

**GENERAL GRANT** (Dunbar 1917) Single. The large individual florets are porcelain-lavender; buds reddish purple. A luxurious bloomer; low, bushy.

**GENERAL SHERMAN** (Dunbar 1917) Single. A handsome shrub with sturdily held plumes of creamy lavender flowers of unusual size. One of Dunbar's most beautiful originations.

**GLOIRE DE MOULINS** (Before 1867) Single. Lilac-pink; striking in bright sunlight. A very hardy shrub and a prolific bloomer. (Illus. p. 9.)

**HIAWATHA**—See Prestonia Hybrids, p. 14.

*All of our lilacs are grown on their own roots*



## FRENCH HYBRIDS

*Natural Color Photograph*  
Edith Cavell

Etna

Mme. Antoine Buchner



Lucie Baltet

Uncle Tom

Paul Thirion

**HUGO KOSTER** (Koster 1914) Single. Blossoms a brilliant mauve; clusters open, pyramidal. Very fragrant. A well shaped bush with dense foliage.

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**ISABELLA**—See *Prestonia* Hybrids, p. 14.

**JACQUES CALLOT** (Lemoine 1876) Single. Trusses large; buds rosy lavender, opening violet marked with white. Vigorous and bushy.

**JAN VAN TOL** (van Tol 1916) Single. A shrub of tall, upright growth habit, bearing immense panicles of exceptionally large, pure white flowers. Valued highly for its imposing blooms.

**JEANNE D'ARC** (Lemoine 1902) Double. A magnificent variety, worthy of the illustrious Joan of Arc for whom it was named. Buds pale primrose yellow; flowers creamy white; spikes long and showy. An unusually strong, sturdy sort, and a very dependable bloomer. (Illus. p. 5.)

**KATHERINE HAVEMEYER** (Lemoine 1922) Double. Broad trusses densely filled with giant-sized florets of soft cobalt-lilac flushed with mauve make this a conspicuous, ornate variety. Blooms early. (Illus. p. 11.)

**LAMARTINE**—See *Giraldi* Hybrids, p. 13.

**LEON GAMBETTA** (Lemoine 1907) Double. An elegant, aristocratic shrub, bearing a profusion of beautifully formed, feathery blooms, well filled with flowers that shade from deep to delicate mauve-lilac. (Illus. p. 5.)

**L'ONCLE TOM**—See *Uncle Tom*.

**LUCIE BALTET** (Baltet before 1888) Single. A lilac of enchanting loveliness, with salmon pink buds and blossoms ranging from shell pink to flesh pink. Of refined, compact habit; very hardy and floriferous. (Illus. p. 7.)

**LUDWIG SPAETH** (Spaeth 1883) Single. Massive trusses well filled with big, rich red-purple florets. A robust grower and exceptionally good bloomer.

**LUTECE**—See *Henryi* Hybrids, p. 15.

**MARECHAL FOCH** (Lemoine 1924) Single. Perfectly formed flowers of dazzling carmine-rose; deep carmine buds. Clusters large, open, showy. Makes a tall, stalwart, well formed bush. Blooms early. Widely acclaimed; one of the handsomest lilacs in cultivation.

**MARECHAL LANNES** (Lemoine 1910) Double. A most imposing sort, flaunting great, luxurious panicles of huge, bluish violet blooms that contrast vividly with carmine-rose buds.

**MARENGO** (Lemoine 1923) Single. Trusses broad, dense, extremely ornate; individual florets of enormous size; color a very rich, warm mauve-lilac. Blossoms freely. A rare novelty in great demand.

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## FRENCH HYBRIDS

*Natural Color Photograph*

Gloire de Moulins

Congo



Adelaide Dunbar

Vestale

President Grevy

**MARIE LEGRAYE** (Before 1879) Single. Large, loose clusters of ivory-white flowers almost completely cover this thrifty bush. Unsurpassed for hardiness and lavishness of bloom. A Belgian origination.

**MME. ANTOINE BUCHNER** (Lemoine 1909) Double. A tall, rapid, symmetrical grower bearing an abundance of big feathery spikes of delicate lilac-rose. The "perfect lilac" from the standpoint of vigor, growth habit, color, beauty and profusion of bloom. (Illus. p. 7).

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**MME. CASIMIR PERIER** (Lemoine 1894) Double. A low-growing, broad, dense shrub, covered with a mass of neat, round, well filled clusters of creamy white, very fragrant flowers. Decorative, hardy, and extremely popular.

**MME. F. MOREL** (Morel 1892) Single. Mammoth trusses of magnificent, rosy violet blossoms. Far-famed and highly prized for the giant size and luxuriousness of its bloom. Tall, slender, rapid-growing.

**MME. KREUTER** (Baudriller 1880) Single. Large, lacy panicles of dainty, royal purple flowers. Blooms lavishly. A bush of neat, thrifty habit.

**MME. LEMOINE** (Lemoine 1890) Double. Big, impressive spikes of dazzling white. Will thrive and bloom under conditions that would discourage many other varieties. A tall, symmetrical, and exceptionally rapid grower. One of Lemoine's earliest introductions and still a perennial favorite.

**MONGE** (Lemoine 1913) Single. Individual florets exquisitely formed and deeply cupped; clusters huge, well filled; color a brilliant mauve-red. Blooms profusely; grows vigorously. Showy; sensational. (Illus. p. 11).

**MRS. W. E. MARSHALL** (Havemeyer 1924) Single. Long, well filled, symmetrical spikes of deep purplish-crimson flowers that retain their rich coloring unusually well. Attractive, tidy growth habit. A charming garden aristocrat produced by crossing Negro and Uncle Tom.

**NECKER**—See Giraldis Hybrids, p. 13.

**NEGRO** (Lemoine 1899) Single. Trusses narrow, pyramidal; borne stiffly upright; neatly filled with dusky violet-purple blossoms. A slow grower that does not attain great height.

**NOCTURNE**—See Prestonia Hybrids, p. 15.

**NOUVEAU**—See Diversifolia Hybrids, p. 14.

**PAUL DESCHANEL** (Lemoine 1924) Double. Large, impressive rosy mauve blooms; petals of individual florets unusually broad. A rare novelty.

**PAUL THIRION** (Lemoine 1915) Double. Buds claret-red; blossoms carmine- to lilac-pink; when partially open, trusses resemble clusters of rose-buds. Inclined to a low, spreading growth habit. Among the most unusual and beautiful of Lemoine's originations. (Illus. p. 7).

**PERLE VON STUTTGART** (Pfitzer 1910) Double. Big, round buds of deep carmine and handsome, perfectly globular flowers, shading from lilac-rose to rich pink. Extremely fragrant. Slender and stately. One of the rarest French Hybrids in cultivation; almost unknown outside of a few arboretums. (Illus. p. 5.)

**PRESIDENT GREVY** (Lemoine 1886) Double. Great panicles of cobalt

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blue blossoms, contrasting with rosy mauve buds. A tall, lusty grower. Among Lemoine's first introductions and still a best seller. (Illus. p. 9.)

**PRESIDENT LINCOLN** (Dunbar 1917) Single. Widely acclaimed as the bluest lilac in commerce—clear, cool Wedgwood blue. Individual florets conspicuous; clusters loose, open, graceful, elegant. Very sturdy; grows rapidly; blooms early. (Illus. below).

Buffon (Giraldi Hybrid)

*Natural Color Photograph*

President Loubet



Katherine Havemeyer

President Lincoln

Monge

**PRESIDENT LOUBET** (Lemoine 1910) Double. A slender, upright shrub bearing a profusion of dense, showy trusses of large crimson-purple flowers. Buds bright claret-red. Another early bloomer. (Illus. above).

**PYRAMIDAL** (Lemoine 1886) Double. Buds carmine-rose, opening bright lavender. Panicles long, pyramidal, feathery, imposing. A very reliable bloomer. A strong, shapely bush; well adapted to specimen planting.

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**RENE JARRY DESLOGES** (Lemoine 1905) Double. Light mauve to verberna violet blossoms and buds of pale wine color give the large, full clusters an attractive, mottled appearance. A sturdy, very upright grower. Early.

**ROYALTY**—See Josiflexa Hybrids, p. 15.

**RUTILANT**—See Nanceiana Hybrids, p. 16.

**SARGENT'S LILAC**—See p. 16.

**TURGOT**—See Giraldi Hybrids, p. 13.

**UNCLE TOM (L'Oncle Tom)** (Lemoine 1903) Single. Large, graceful, open panicles of big, very dark red-purple flowers with incurved petals. Blooms profusely. A well shaped shrub of somewhat dwarfish habit. (Illus. p. 7).

**VAUBAN**—See Giraldi Hybrids, p. 13.

**VESTALE** (Lemoine 1910) Single. Enormous clusters of large, pure white flowers with conspicuous yellow anthers. An extremely lusty grower that makes a big, imposing bush. Handsomest of the single whites. (Illus. p. 9.)

**WALDECK-ROUSSEAU** (Lemoine 1904) Double. Buds rich pinkish lavender; blossoms delicate mauve-pink marked with white. Each floret stands out and is formed with perfect symmetry, giving the long, open panicles a strikingly beautiful effect. Strong, sturdy, and free blooming.

**WILLIAM ROBINSON** (Lemoine 1899) Double. In bud the trusses are a mass of conspicuous brilliant carmine rosettes; in full bloom a dense cluster of pinkish lavender flowers. Robust, floriferous; very showy.

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## EARLY AND LATE HYBRIDS

These are true hybrids, having been derived from the crossing of two different lilac species. Most of them are of comparatively recent origin. The various groups differ from one another in both flower and foliage and cover a considerable range of blooming periods. A few hybrids will add real distinction to any lilac collection and prolong the blooming season. We have under observation a large number of hybrids not yet listed in our catalog.

### Giraldi Hybrids (*S. hyacinthiflora*)

These lilacs are derived from crosses between forms of the Common Lilac, *S. vulgaris*, and the Purple Early Lilac, *S. oblata giraldi*. They come into bloom just before the French Hybrids. All are vigorous, rapid growers.

*All of our lilacs are grown on their own roots*



**BUFFON** (Lemoine 1921) Single. Perfectly formed flowers of clear, bright mauve, in great, showy, well filled clusters. A broad, bushy shrub of average height. (Illus. p. 11).

**CATINAT** (Lemoine 1923) Single. Florets large, elegantly borne in big, airy panicles; color a rich mauve-pink. A tall, extremely graceful grower; makes a lovely bush. Held in high esteem by connoisseurs.

**CLAUDE BERNARD** (Lemoine 1915) Double. Long, well filled trusses of large blossoms; mauve, marked with bluish lavender within. Buds rich Argyle purple. Very showy. Tall, strong, and sturdy.



*Natural Color Photograph: Lamartine (Giraldi Hybrid)*

**LAMARTINE** (Lemoine 1911) Single. Pinkish lilac with violet markings; flowers and panicles of unusual size. Tall, floriferous, and fragrant. Awarded a medal by the Royal Horticultural Society. (Illus. above).

**NECKER** (Lemoine 1920) Single. Buds rose color; blooms cool, pale pink. Clusters well filled, symmetrical; florets perfectly formed. A tall, stately bush. Blooms unusually early. A distinguished novelty.

**TURGOT** (Lemoine 1922) Single. The flowers on this variety are a perfect apple blossom pink. Buds brilliant mauve; panicles broad and somewhat open. A tall, upright grower. One of the rarest Giraldi Hybrids in cultivation.

**VAUBAN** (Lemoine 1913) Double. Great plummy trusses of Argyle purple to lilac-pink blossoms. Very free flowering. An unusually tall grower that makes an excellent background shrub.

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### **Diversifolia Hybrids (*S. diversifolia*)**

A cross between the lilac species *S. pinnatifolia* and *S. oblata giraldi* originated by the late William H. Judd of the Arnold Arboretum.

**NOUVEAU** (Upton 1944) Single. We grew this plant from seed received from Mr. Judd. Buds daphne pink; blossoms pinkish lilac; clusters broad, dense, rounded, borne in great profusion all over the top of the bush. Extremely fragrant. Blooms very early. Growth habit vigorous and graceful. Foliage lacy, strikingly diversified, turns a beautiful shade of gold bronze in autumn. (See Illus. p. 17). A real novelty.

### **Chinensis Hybrids (*S. chinensis*)**

A cross between the Common Lilac, *S. vulgaris*, and the Persian Lilac, *S. persica*. Originated in the Botanic Garden at Rouen, France. By far the best known hybrid type. Also called *S. rothomagensis* or Rouen Lilac, and still widely sold under the completely erroneous name of "Persian Lilac." (The real Persian Lilac, *S. persica*, is described on p. 19).

**S. CHINENSIS** (1796) Single. A big, broad, symmetrical shrub with dense, twiggy branches and narrow, divided leaves; literally covered with massive showy blooms of reddish purple flowers. Extremely vigorous.

**S. CHINENSIS ALBA** (Before 1885) Single. A white form of *S. chinensis*.

### **Prestonia Hybrids (*S. prestoniae*)**

A race originating from crosses between two Chinese species, *S. reflexa* and *S. villosa*, first made by Miss Isabella Preston of Ottawa in the 1920's. These are big, vigorous, open-growing, broad-leaved shrubs that bloom about two weeks after the French Hybrids. All flowers are single.

**AUDREY** (Preston before 1940) Graceful, open panicles; buds rosy mauve; blossoms delicate mauve-pink. A profuse and dependable bloomer.

**CORAL** (Preston 1937). A second generation Prestonia of great promise. Clusters broad, open, symmetrical; buds rich coral; blooms creamy coral-pink. Coloring not unlike Lucie Baltet; fragrance similar to white clover.

**HIAWATHA** (Skinner 1932) Buds deep red; flowers rich mauve; clusters dense, cylindrical. Young leaves attractively veined with dark red. A very brilliant, showy sort.

**ISABELLA** (Preston 1927) Long, airy panicles of cool pink flowers. Buds a richer, deeper shade. A variety of genuine elegance and refinement. The best known Prestonia Hybrid.

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**NOCTURNE** (Preston 1936) Trusses well filled, cylindrical, slightly pendulous; blossoms bluish lavender. Delicately fragrant. Another outstanding second generation *Prestonia*.

### **Josiflexa Hybrids** (*S. josiflexa*)

A new race originated by Miss Preston; a cross between the Hungarian Lilac, *S. josikaea*, and the Chinese lilac, *S. reflexa*.

**ROYALTY** (Preston before 1940) Single. Clusters open, held erect; buds very deep violet; opened florets purple without, lavender within. Delicately fragrant. A neat, well formed, broad-leaved shrub. A profuse, showy bloomer, blossoming at about the same time as the *Prestonia* Hybrids.



Lutece (Henryi Hybrid)

### **Henryi Hybrids** (*S. henryi*)

A cross between *S. villosa* and *S. josikaea* made by Louis Henry of the *Jardin des Plantes*, Paris. Blooms with the *Prestonia* group.

**LUTECE** (Henry 1900) Single. A thrifty, compact, well rounded shrub with dense, dark green foliage and flaunting a mass of gigantic violet-purple blooms. Very showy. Exceptionally fine for specimen plantings. (Illus. above).

### **Nanceiana Hybrids** (*S. nanceiana*)

Originated by Lemoine, who crossed *S. henryi* with the Chinese species, *S. sweginzowi*. They come into bloom just as the *Prestonia* Hybrids fade.

**FLOREAL** (Lemoine 1925) Great, foaming clusters of beautiful, rich lilac-pink flowers. Delicately fragrant. Vigorous, graceful, tall. Makes an excellent

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background or specimen shrub. Very showy and floriferous.

**RUTILANT** (Lemoine 1931) Panicles open, held erect; buds royal purple; blossoms brilliant reddish lavender; very striking and conspicuous. Fragrance exceptionally lovely. A broad-leaved, compact, thrifty shrub.

### Sargent's Lilac

(Upton 1936) Single. An outstanding late blooming lilac. Bears a mass of delicate, lacy, violet-rose blossoms in graceful, open clusters. Compact and symmetrical; foliage large-leaved, dense. A profuse, unusually reliable bloomer. A seedling of a very beautiful but never positively identified lilac of the Arnold Arboretum, much admired by the eminent Charles Sprague Sargent.

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## LILAC SPECIES

These are the "wild" lilacs, many of them strikingly beautiful and differing greatly both in flower and foliage from the old, familiar sorts. They have come from southeastern Europe, from the vast expanses of China, from Japan, Korea, the Tibetan borderlands, the Himalayas. The majority of them have been discovered during the past fifty or sixty years by intrepid plant explorers, most outstanding of whom was the almost legendary E. H. "Chinese" Wilson.

We have devoted many years to assembling a complete stock of authentic species from which to propagate. The list that follows contains all the lilacs recognized as distinct species by the Committee on Horticultural Varieties of The American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboretums.

Many additional forms, or variants, of some of the species lilacs have been discovered from time to time. We are endeavoring to grow all the outstanding forms of proven worth; a number are included in this list.

**S. AMURENSIS**—See Tree Lilacs, p. 23.

**S. AMURENSIS JAPONICA**—See Tree Lilacs, p. 23.

**S. CHINENSIS**—See Chinensis Hybrids, p. 14.

**S. DILATATA**—See *S. oblata dilatata*, p. 19.

**S. DIVERSIFOLIA**—See Diversifolia Hybrids, p. 14.

**S. EMODI** (Himalayan Lilac) Reported growing wild in the famed vale of Kashmir, in Afghanistan, and throughout the northwestern Himalayas. The Western world first learned of it in 1831, in the days of the old East India

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Company. A neat, upright growing shrub with a distinctive pale bark streaked with white. Leaves large, long, very light green; flowers white, with conspicuous yellow anthers. A very late bloomer.

**S. HENRYI**—See Henryi Hybrids, p. 15.

**S. HYACINTHIFLORA**—See Giraldi Hybrids, p. 12.

**S. JAPONICA**—See *S. amurensis japonica*, p. 23.

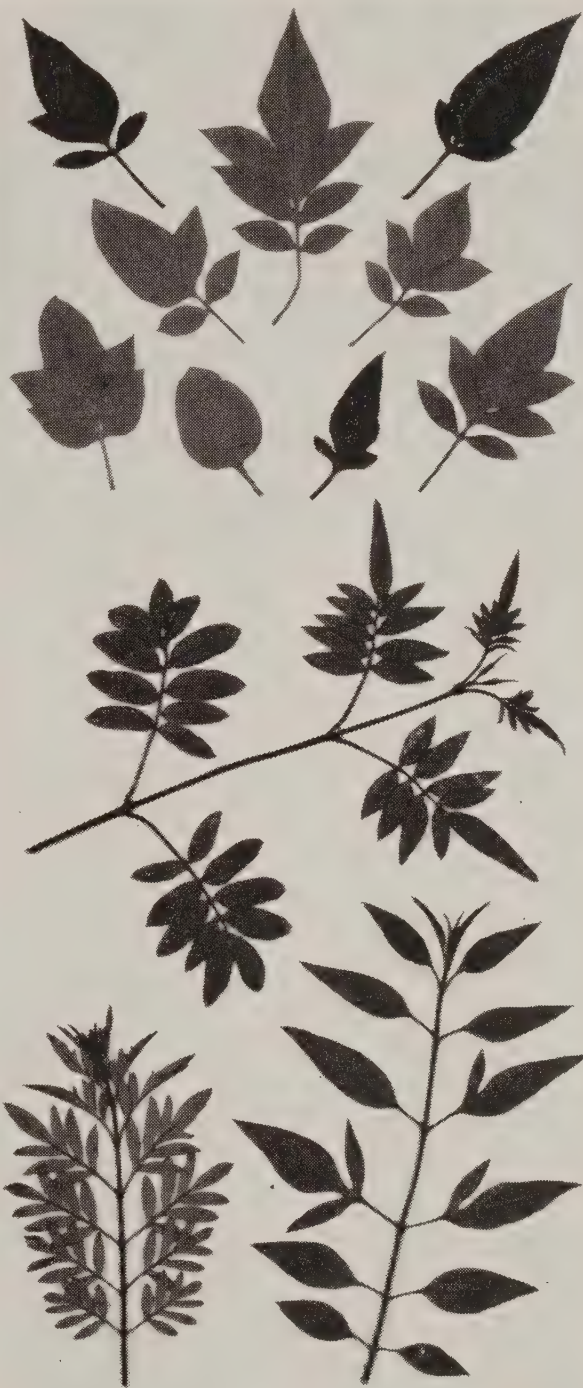
**S. JOSIFLEXA**—See Josiflexa Hybrids, p. 15.

**S. JOSIKAEA** (Hungarian Lilac) Discovered by Baroness von Josika on her estate in Transylvania, and brought to the attention of European horticulturists in 1830. Although called Hungarian, it is actually native to a number of countries in south-eastern Europe. Blossoms violet-blue; borne in long, graceful panicles. Late-flowering. Leaves large, lustrous dark green. A very robust grower.

**S. JULIANAE** (Juliana Lilac) Discovered on a mountain cliff in Hupeh Province, China, by E. H. Wilson in 1901. A dwarf shrub of low, spreading growth habit. Flowers violet without, white within, and with violet anthers. Dainty and fragrant. One of the loveliest of all the species lilacs.

**S. KOMAROVII** (Komarof Lilac) Found in the Chinese province of Szechwan in 1893 by an unidentified Russian botanist, who sent a specimen of this species to the Imperial Botanic Garden of St. Petersburg (now Leningrad). Trusses slightly

*Silhouette Photograph*



Top: Varied leaf forms of *S. diversifolia*

Center: *S. pinnatifolia*

Bottom left: *S. persica laciniata*

Bottom right: The true *S. persica*

*All of our lilacs are grown on their own roots*



pendulous, cylindrical, densely filled with bright pink flowers. The color of *S. komarovi* is the deepest pink of any known lilac. Another late bloomer. One of the rarest species in cultivation.

**S. MEYERI** (Meyer Lilac) Connoisseurs among Chinese gardeners knew this lilac; called it *Shau ting hsien*. It has never been found growing wild. Introduced into this country in 1908. A low-growing, broad shrub with small-leaved, dense foliage. Bears a profusion of dainty mauve-violet blossoms. Blooms late. Another very rare and beautiful species.



*Syringa microphylla*

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**S. MICROPHYLLA** (Littleleaf Lilac) First reported in 1892 by the Catholic missionary, Rev. Giuseppe Giraldi, who found it in Shensi Province, China. A big, broad, well rounded shrub with twiggy branches and dense, small-leaved foliage. It comes into bloom shortly after the French Hybrids and is a mass of lovely, lacy, delicate pink blossoms of exquisite fragrance. Frequently blooms a second time, in late summer. Very hardy. A real addition to any garden. (Illus. p. 18).

**S. NANCEIANA**—See Nanceiana Hybrids, p. 15.

**S. OBLATA** (Early Lilac) Another favorite of Chinese gardeners, well known in Peiping. Never found growing wild. Brought to England by Robert Fortune in 1856. A tall, compact shrub with light lavender flowers. Blooms very early, about ten days before the French Hybrids.

**S. OBLATA DILATATA** (Korean Early Lilac) A variety of *S. oblata* found in Korea and introduced into cultivation by E. H. Wilson in 1917. A tall, willowy, vigorous shrub, flaunting clusters of large, very lovely flowers of rich lavender. Young leaves tinged copper; autumn foliage a beautiful bronze-green. It is highly questionable if the painstakingly produced Early Hybrids have ever surpassed, for sheer beauty, the handsome *S. oblata dilatata*.

**S. OBLATA GIRALDI NANA** A dwarf form of the oblata group with typical oblata foliage and early blooming habit. Flowers pale lavender.

**S. PEKINENSIS**—See Tree Lilacs, p. 23.

**S. PERSICA** (Persian Lilac) The real Persian Lilac, not to be confused with the hybrid, *S. chinensis*, which has been widely sold under this name. Known only as a cultivated plant, mentioned by botanists as early as 1660. A small, dainty shrub of fountain-like growth habit. The slender branches droop gracefully with a mass of showy, mauve-lilac blooms. (Illus. p. 5.) Very attractive, lacy foliage. (Illus. p. 17) Blossoms shortly after the Common Lilac.

**S. PERSICA ALBA** (White Persian Lilac) A cultivated plant, known since 1770. Differs from *S. persica* solely in the color of its blooms, which are very pale lavender when first opening and fade white. No absolutely pure snow-white form of *S. persica* is believed to exist.

**S. PERSICA LACINIATA** (Cutleaf Persian Lilac) Lilacs with laciniate leaves were known to botanists in 1614. The form from which we propagate was found in a Cambridge garden by the well known lilac authority, Susan Delano McKelvey. Branches very slender, graceful, covered with feathery

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foliage, resembling green plumes. (Illus. p. 17). Blossoms a delicate shade of violet. Growth habit similar to that of *S. persica* but a little more upright. It blooms at approximately the same time. This species prefers a slightly sheltered location. A rare and charming novelty.

**S. PINNATIFOLIA** (Pinnate Lilac) Another lilac discovered by E. H. Wilson, who found it in western China in 1904. A very rare and unusual shrub with beautiful, pinnate foliage. (Illus. p. 17.) A deliberate but graceful grower. Flowers dainty, pure snow-white, with conspicuous yellow anthers; clusters extremely tiny. Blooms very early.

**S. POTANINI** (Potanin Lilac) First discovered in 1885 by the Russian explorer Potanin, in Kansu, China. Leaves small to medium size; growth habit neat, erect, symmetrical. An unusually free bloomer. Blossoms daphne pink without, delicate lilac-pink within. Buds flaming salmon-red, almost scarlet, a shade unique among lilacs. Extremely showy. One of the rarest and most strikingly beautiful species in cultivation.

**S. PRESTONIAE**—See *Prestonia* Hybrids, p. 14.

*Natural Color Photograph*



*Syringa pubescens*

**S. PUBESCENS** (Hairy Lilac) A species of rare distinction, found wild in the mountains near Peiping and first reported by a Russian botanist in 1840. It owes the name of Hairy Lilac to its slightly hairy, small, somewhat round leaves. This is a bush of very graceful, vase-like growth habit. Its dainty, star-like, delicate lilac-pink blossoms are borne in foaming clusters that cover the bush from the ground up. Its exquisite spicy fragrance is legendary; no other lilac can equal it. Although *S. pubescens* is a hardy shrub, it grows most luxuriously in a rather sheltered location.

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**S. REFLEXA** (Nodding Lilac) Here is still another remarkable lilac that we owe to E. H. Wilson, who found it growing in the mountains of western Hupeh, Central China, in 1901. Best known for its graceful, wisteria-like, drooping flower panicles and the rich clear pink of its blossoms, contrasting with brilliant coral-red buds. Blooms very late. Leaves large, long, deep green; growth habit sturdy, upright. Extremely hardy. Awarded a medal by the Royal Horticultural Society. A most striking and unusual species that will add distinction to any lilac collection.



*Syringa reflexa*

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**S. REFLEXA ALBA** (White Nodding Lilac) A white form that we discovered in the block of *S. reflexa* at our nursery, and introduced in 1940. It has the typical nodding flower clusters, which are a pure creamy white, and resembles *S. reflexa* in its blooming and growth habits. Its foliage is an attractive light green. A rare novelty.

**S. SWEGINZOWI** (Chengtu Lilac) Found in the Tibetan borderlands by E. H. Wilson in 1904. Blooms very late. Its beautifully formed, showy panicles of very pale pink flowers with bright pink centers are borne in great profusion. Has a pleasant, delicate fragrance. Very hardy. One of the loveliest of the species lilacs.

**S. SWEGINZOWI SUPERBA** Introduced by V. Lemoine & Son in 1915, as an improved form of *S. sweginzowi*, and awarded a medal by the Royal Horticultural Society. Does not differ noticeably from the original *S. sweginzowi*.

**S. TOMENTELLA** (Felted Lilac) A handsome late-blooming species with large trusses of pink to rosy lilac colored flowers, first found in Szechwan by M. Bonvalot and Prince Henri d'Orleans in 1890. A big, tall, imposing shrub.

**S. VELUTINA** (Korean Lilac) Discovered in the Korean Mountains by V. L. Komarov in 1897. Brought to the United States by E. H. Wilson. An upright-growing shrub with slender branches and attractive foliage. Produces an abundance of pale lilac colored blooms. Pleasingly fragrant.

**S. VILLOSA** (Late Lilac) First found by a Jesuit missionary, Piere d'Incarville, near Peiping, China about 1750. A tall, vigorous, stately shrub, blossoming about two weeks after the Common Lilac. A dependable, very profuse bloomer. Flowers an attractive shade of creamy lilac-rose. Makes an excellent background plant. One of the best known lilac species.

**S. VULGARIS** (Common Lilac) This is the popular, old-time garden favorite. A native of southeastern Europe, three hundred years of cultivation have greatly improved this species.

**S. VULGARIS NATIVE** (Wild Common Lilac) The original type of *S. vulgaris* from which our Common Lilac has evolved. The plants that we use for propagating were given to us by E. H. Wilson and are of Balkan origin. This shrub closely resembles the Common Lilac in growth habit, but its pale lavender flower clusters are sparse and inferior. Its historical significance makes it a valuable collector's item.

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**S. VULGARIS ALBA** (White Common Lilac) The old-fashioned white lilac, first appearing in European gardens early in the seventeenth century.

**S. WOLFI** (Wolf Lilac) A very hardy shrub coming originally from the mountains of Korea and Manchuria and first reported about 1910. A broad, symmetrical plant with dark green leaves. It blooms late, bearing attractive lilac-purple blossoms in great profusion. An excellent species, still little known in American gardens.

**S. YUNNANENSIS** (Yunnan Lilac) A slender, graceful shrub with flowers of pale purplish rose. Found in Yunnan Province, China in 1887 by the Abbé Jean Marie Delavay of the *Missions Etrangères*.



Japanese Tree Lilac

## TREE LILACS

**S. AMURENSIS** (Amur Lilac) Grows in the Amur River country of North-east Asia, where it was first found by two Russian travellers in 1855. Makes an attractive small tree bearing very large, long, showy, graceful panicles filled with dainty ivory-white flowers with conspicuous yellow anthers. Buds greenish yellow. Leaves large. Very hardy. *S. amurensis* blooms later than any other species.

### **S. AMURENSIS JAPONICA**

(*S. japonica*) (Japanese Tree Lilac) A variety of tree lilac first reported about 1875 and a native of Japan. Makes a very shapely, round-topped tree. It blooms slightly later than *S. amurensis*; the blossoms are similar, but the

clusters are a little broader and denser. Very robust and floriferous.

**S. PEKINENSIS** (Pekin Lilac) A large shrub or small, broad tree, discovered in North China in the late 1850's. Leaves long and slender; blooms white, very lacy and showy and borne in great profusion.

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# WHY OWN-ROOT LILACS?



Fig. A  
GRAFTED ON PRIVET  
(Photographed in July)

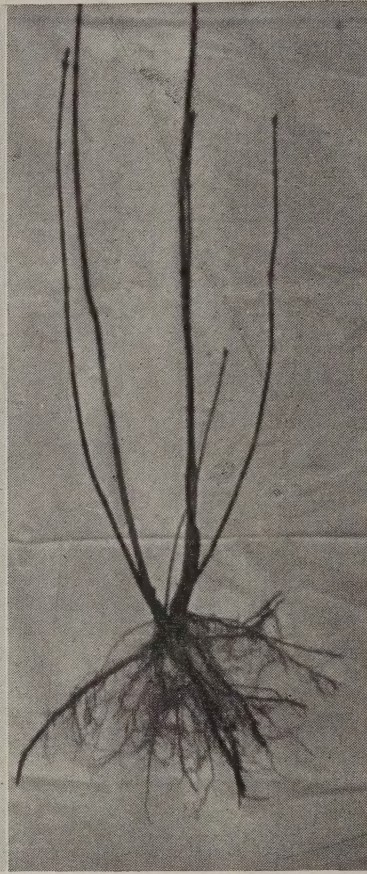


Fig. B  
GROWN ON OWN ROOTS  
(Photographed in December)

**Fig. A:** A lilac grafted on Privet and planted deep on an effort to get it on its own roots. This plant's history shows, as in a great percentage of grafted lilacs, that *after five years it has failed to establish roots of its own*. Note the greatly enlarged stem at the graft juncture, and wilted, unhealthy appearance. This lilac could not obtain sufficient nutriment through the inadequate root system of its Privet understock.

**Fig. B:** A dormant two year old lilac on its own roots. The picture speaks for itself.

## UPTON NURSERY COMPANY LILAC SPECIALISTS

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